

# SEX EDUCATION POLICY

## **Principles**

- All young people in school are entitled to sex and relationship education.
- All sex and relationship education is set within a broad framework of Personal Development.
- Sex and relationship education will have an equal focus on boys and girls.
- That sex education should present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, within the context of family life.

## **Aims**

1. To help and support pupils through the stages of physical, emotional and personal development.
2. To enable pupils to manage with confidence the transition from childhood through adolescence and into early adulthood.
3. To promote an understanding of sexual attitudes and behaviour.
4. To help develop self esteem and confidence in young people to enable them to form responsible and caring relationships.
5. To create a supportive and caring pastoral system which encourages pupils to seek advice on sexual matters from professionals both in and out of school.

## **Objectives**

1. To impart knowledge and understanding related to puberty, menstruation, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS.
2. To inform pupils about what is risky sexual behaviour and what is safer sex.
3. To explore an understanding of a range of personal relationships and how to negotiate those relationships, especially with regard to safer sex.

## **Curriculum**

There are several elements of the curriculum which contribute to the delivery of sex education.

- Personal Development particularly with regard to relationships.
- National curriculum Science lessons.
- Statutory R.E. particularly with regard to abortion.
- Year 10 Sexual Health Roadshow focus days.
- Outside agencies eg. Theatre in Education may provide additional stimulus.

## **Parental Rights**

Under the 1993 Education Act parents may withdraw their children from sex education. However, Governors hope that parents do not exercise this right as the teaching takes place in the context of family life.

## **The Role of Governors**

Governors are responsible for ensuring the provision of sex education within school and for providing an up to date policy which is available to parents.

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### Suggested good practice

- Teachers need to establish ground rules with the pupils.  
The basic ground rules are :-
  - no one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question.
  - no one will be forced to take part in a discussion.
  - only the correct names for body parts are to be used.
  - the meanings of words will be explained in a factual and straightforward way.
- Teachers need to respond to unexpected comments or questions and should :-
  - not allow personal questions, reminding the pupil of the ground rules.
  - be honest if the answer to the question is not known.
  - acknowledge questions which are too explicit, inappropriate, or raise concerns about sexual abuse and promise to attend to it later on an individual basis.
  - follow the school's child protection procedures if they are concerned that there is a risk of sexual abuse.
- Research has shown that effective sex and relationship learning takes place through discussion, group work and project learning.
- Teachers are reminded that giving individual pupils under the age of 16 personal advice on matters such as contraception without parental knowledge is an inappropriate exercise of the teacher's professional responsibilities.